



## Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.: General  
2 July 2013

Original: English

---

### Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention

#### Twelfth session

Windhoek, Namibia, 17–26 September 2013

Item 3 (b) (ii) of the provisional agenda

**Improving the procedures for communication of information as well as the quality and format of reports to be submitted to the Conference of the Parties:**

**Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention:**

**Accessibility of best practices**

### **Consideration of best practices in the implementation of the Convention: Accessibility of best practices**

#### **Note by the secretariat**

##### *Summary*

By its decision 15/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided that future sessions of the Committee for the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) should review the accessibility of the information on best practices.

By the same decision, the COP encouraged Parties to submit best practices to new and existing best practice databases; and requested the secretariat, and the Global Mechanism (GM) in the case of theme 6, to identify a recommended database for new information for each of these themes and to support reporting entities in the submission of best practices to the recommended primary database.

The present document reports on the further work of the secretariat and the GM in implementing decision 15/COP.10, in line with the deliberations at CRIC 11, and the results achieved thereof, for consideration by the CRIC at its twelfth session and for any draft decision that the CRIC may wish to put forward at COP 11.

## Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction and background information .....	1–5	3
II. Identification of recommended databases .....	6–17	4
A. Sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation .....	6–12	4
B. Funding and resource mobilization.....	13–17	5
III. Conclusions and recommendations .....	18	6

## I. Introduction and background information

1. By its decision 15/COP.10, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided to increase accessibility to information on best practices and requested the secretariat to identify recommended databases for each of the seven thematic topics identified in decision 13/COP.9, annex V, to which data and information stored in the database of the performance review and assessment of implementation system (PRAIS) should be further transferred.

2. According to the report submitted by the secretariat<sup>1</sup> to the eleventh session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC 11), the following organizations and institutions have expressed interest in supporting the CRIC in the compilation and dissemination of best practices on “sustainable land management technologies (SLM), including adaptation” (hereinafter “SLM best practices”), and meet all or most of the criteria set by the Bureau of the CRIC:

- (a) ENDA - Energy Environment Development;<sup>2</sup>
- (b) IPOGEA;<sup>3</sup>
- (c) Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS);<sup>4</sup>
- (d) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);<sup>5</sup>
- (e) World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT).<sup>6</sup>

3. As regards the outcomes on “funding and resource mobilization”, the call for expressions of interest did not yield the range of institutions that was expected. The secretariat and the Global Mechanism (GM) therefore planned to continue consultations with potentially interested institutions.

4. At CRIC 11,<sup>7</sup> some Parties recommended that information on SLM best practices be consolidated and made available in a centralized best practice repository or through a data sharing initiative to prevent duplication and enable comparisons between countries. In this regard, many Parties called for an integrated approach by leveraging synergies and cooperation among the institutions participating in the call.

5. The present document reports on the further work of the secretariat and the GM and the results achieved in implementing decision 15/COP.10, in line with the deliberations at CRIC 11, for consideration by the CRIC at its twelfth session (CRIC 12) and for any draft decision that the CRIC may wish to put forward at COP 11.

<sup>1</sup> ICCD/CRIC(11)/13 and Add.1.

<sup>2</sup> <<http://endaenergy.org/category/language/english/>>.

<sup>3</sup> <<http://www.ipogea.org/site2/index.php/en>>.

<sup>4</sup> <<http://www.oss-online.org/>>.

<sup>5</sup> <<http://www.unep.org/>>.

<sup>6</sup> <<https://www.wocat.net/>>.

<sup>7</sup> See ICCD/CRIC(11)/19 and Add.1 containing the report of CRIC 11, held in Bonn, Germany, from 15 to 19 April 2013.

## II. Identification of recommended databases

### A. Sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation

6. Further to CRIC 11 and in line with recommendations made by Parties at that session, consultations were made with the five institutions mentioned in paragraph 2 above. These institutions have all confirmed their willingness to cooperate in assisting the CRIC in the compilation and dissemination of SLM best practices.<sup>8</sup> However, these institutions would need to make some investments in order to adjust their database management system and related protocols, to the current PRAIS procedures and templates.

7. In this regard, it is recalled that these institutions would be required to provide a number of services so far provided by the secretariat, for a tentative period of six years (2013–2018), including:<sup>9</sup>

(a) Receiving and hosting the existing PRAIS database on SLM best practices;

(b) Compiling additional information received by Parties and other reporting entities on SLM best practices, in accordance with the specific provisions adopted by the COP;<sup>10</sup>

(c) Maintaining such a database and ensuring the integrity of the data, and making data and information available according to the classification adopted by the COP,<sup>11</sup> through web-based platforms;

(d) Facilitating access to, and ensuring circulation of, information on SLM best practices in accordance with the data-sharing policy that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) may adopt with regard to communication of information submitted by Parties;

(e) Sharing data and information on SLM best practices with other similar institutions/databases which will be recommended by the COP.

8. Parties at CRIC 12 may also consider that the transfer of data to a third party and the delivery of the services described in paragraph 7 above would require a specific legal agreement to be concluded between the secretariat and one of the recommended institutions. The latter could also play the role of lead institution and coordinate the action of the other partner institutions in the compilation and communication of relevant information on SLM best practices.

9. The secretariat of WOCAT, hosted by the University of Bern, has expressed interest in coordinating the efforts made by the five institutions and already allocated some human resources to analyse a number of possible technical and institutional options to facilitate the establishment of a global data network on SLM best practices.

10. The network would be supported by an online platform to facilitate access to data and information sharing. Free and open access to the widest and most reliable information on SLM best practices including decision-support tools would then be granted to practitioners and end users.

---

<sup>8</sup> The Sahara and Sahel Observatory also expressed interest in cooperating on the compilation and dissemination of best practices on “desertification, land degradation and drought, and sustainable land management monitoring and assessment/research.”

<sup>9</sup> See ICCD/CRIC(11)/13.

<sup>10</sup> See decision 13/COP.9 and decision 15/COP.10.

<sup>11</sup> See decision 15/COP.10, annex.

11. UNEP, in addition to confirming its interest in participating in the initiative and sharing information compiled in databases relevant to SLM best practices, is also available to explore funding opportunities to cover the initial investments required, including from the Global Environment Facility and other potential technical and financial partners.

12. It is worth noting that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), although not having formally participated in the call for expression of interest, in order to avoid duplication with its key role in WOCAT,<sup>12</sup> has reiterated its intention to support this initiative and make its long-lasting experience, expertise and knowledge-base on sustainable land management available to UNCCD, according to modalities to be further explored.<sup>13</sup>

## **B. Funding and resource mobilization**

13. None of the institutions that participated in the call for expressions of interest in best practices on “funding and resource mobilization” met the basic requirements to maintain databases in this area. At the same time, those institutions that have internationally-recognized expertise in this area did not submit a formal expression of interest to the call. There still seems to be a knowledge gap in this area, including in the objectives and the methodologies for compiling and disseminating information on best practices on resource mobilization for implementing the Convention. As a matter of fact, specific tools (templates, reporting guidelines and databases) that could be used to manage information in this area have not yet been adopted by the COP<sup>14</sup> and further consultations among Parties on this matter would be required.

14. Under the prevailing conditions, it might be appropriate to develop a specific framework to facilitate the collection and analysis of best practices on theme 6, building on the definitions and principles set out in document ICCD/CRIC(10)/16. The reporting framework could use different templates to address developed and affected country Parties to the Convention, for example by focusing on reporting on the funding procedures, and on the resource mobilization process, respectively. Once the structure for collecting, analysing, and measuring relevant information is in place, a database to manage such information could be developed accordingly.

15. It is therefore proposed that a working group is established, comprising those institutions that informally expressed interest in being involved in discussions on this matter,<sup>15</sup> and tasked with the development of the reporting framework on best practices on “funding and resource mobilization” which will eventually represent the reference base for designing the database. The objective would be to present a concrete proposal for the reporting framework on this topic at CRIC 13. Such a proposal should include:

- (a) A clear definition of “best practice on funding and resource mobilization” based on document ICCD/CRIC(10)/16;

<sup>12</sup> FAO and other institutions are part of the management team of WOCAT and in the past two decades have continued to actively support its database, tools and product development, both technically and financially.

<sup>13</sup> Including through the expanded WOCAT partnership and its new strategic framework, and through relevant projects in the framework of the new FAO strategic programme.

<sup>14</sup> See ICCD/CRIC(10)/16, entitled “Draft format and methodological guidelines for reporting on best practices on funding and resources mobilization”.

<sup>15</sup> Including the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Financial Initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

- (b) A set of criteria to identify a best practice on “funding and resource mobilization” for affected and developed country Parties to the UNCCD;
- (c) A set of indicators to evaluate best practices in this area;
- (d) Two templates (one for affected and one for developed country Parties and financial institutions) to guide the reporting on best practices on “funding and resource mobilization”;
- (e) The technical and financial resources required for the development of a database drawing on the information included in the templates.

16. The working group could initially include those institutions that informally expressed interest in participating in discussions on best practices in “funding and resource mobilization”, and remain open to including any other institution willing to join at a later stage and contribute their knowledge and experience. The working group could also facilitate a broader engagement by relevant organizations in this process, beyond the technical consultations required for the development of appropriate reporting tools on best practices related to this topic.

17. The schedule of review of thematic topics of UNCCD best practices adopted with decision 15/COP.10<sup>16</sup> would need to be adjusted according to the current conditions.

### III. Conclusions and recommendations

**18. Parties at CRIC 12 may consider putting forward a draft decision to COP 11, to include the following elements:**

- (a) Inviting the institutions which have expressed interest in supporting the work of the CRIC on best practices on “sustainable land management technologies, including adaptation”, to continue their joint efforts in making such information available to decision-makers and end users, including through the establishment of a global data network;**
- (b) Requesting the secretariat to conclude the required administrative and legal arrangements in order to transfer data and information on best practices on sustainable land management, including adaptation, stored in the PRAIS database, to the institution leading the global data network;**
- (c) Inviting developed country Parties and technical and financial institutions to contribute to the establishment of the global data network and the online platform on SLM best practices;**
- (d) Inviting Parties and other reporting entities, including civil society organizations, to continue submitting cases of relevant best practices, in order to increase the UNCCD knowledge base on sustainable land management;**
- (e) Requesting the secretariat and the GM to facilitate consultations among relevant organizations with a view to defining a reporting framework for best practices on “funding and resource mobilization” and the other thematic topics, including through an open-ended informal working group;**
- (f) Requesting also the secretariat and the GM to review the calendar contained in decision 15/COP.10, and proposing to CRIC 13 a revised timeframe for the compilation of best practices in conformity with the present decision;**

---

<sup>16</sup> Decision 15/COP.10, annex, table 3, entitled “Proposed schedule of review of best practice themes 1 to 7”.

(g) Requesting further the secretariat to continue consultations with relevant institutions and organizations with a view to identifying recommended databases for the remaining thematic topics of best practices;

(h) Mandating the Bureau of the CRIC, in consultation with the Bureau of the CST as required, to provide guidance to the secretariat and the GM in the implementation of the present decision;

(i) Requesting the secretariat and the GM to report to the next sessions of the CRIC on the implementation of the present decision.

---